

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:74

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005

HANDING OVER OF FOREST LAND TO TRIBALS

Sonowal Shri Sarbananda

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has, under any scheme, allowed the construction activity in tribal areas and villages on the fringe of forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has cleared construction of school, hospital, rainwater harvesting structures, electric and communication lines, power sub station etc;
- (d) the number of States covered under the said scheme, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to invite private agencies for the purpose; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) With a view to ensuring development of tribals and forest dwellers by providing basic and essential developmental facilities and sense of security without compromising on environmental considerations, the Central Government, on 03.01.2005, granted general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to all the State/Union Territory Governments for diversion of forest land to the Government Departments subject to certain conditions for schools, dispensary/hospitals, electric and telecommunication lines, drinking water, water/rain-water harvesting structures, minor irrigation canals, non-conventional sources of energy, skill up-gradation/vocational training centres, power sub-stations, communication posts, and police establishments like police stations/ outposts/border outposts /watch towers.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.